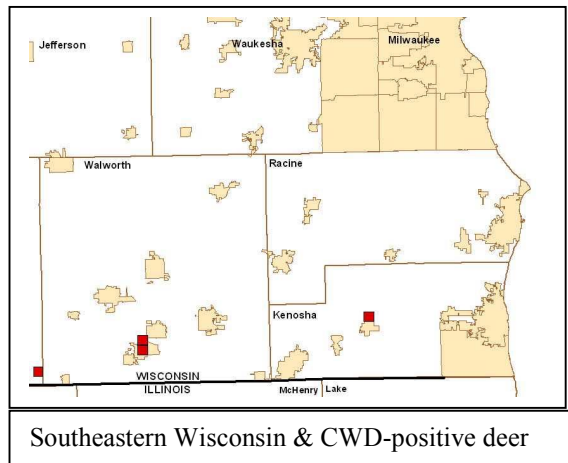


Chronic Wasting Disease Update Southeast Wisconsin

(Revised May 4, 2004)

2002-03 Efforts - DNR efforts in the southeastern counties of Waukesha, Walworth, Milwaukee, Kenosha and Racine during the fall and winter of 2002-03 concentrated on the collection of samples as part of our statewide surveillance effort for the CWD. The table below shows the number of samples collected during this time period, as well as, during this past fall and winter.

	Number of Deer Sampled & Positive Cases Detected through 3/31/04		
	2002-03	2003-04	Number of CWD+ Deer
Waukesha	101	168	0
Walworth	129	370	2
Milwaukee	37	16	0
Kenosha	27	37	1
Racine	20	43	0



Surveillance efforts in southeast Wisconsin included the voluntary sampling of hunter-killed deer and the collection of car-killed deer samples.

2003-04 Efforts - With the discovery of CWD+ deer in northern Illinois counties and the detection of CWD+ deer from the Village of Fontana on Geneva Lake in Walworth county during the summer of 2003, wildlife staff intensified their efforts to collect deer samples from Walworth County and adjacent counties. Collection strategies again used both hunter-killed and car-killed deer. DNR staff supplemented these collection efforts this past winter with sharp shooting, trapping and landowner permits to more accurately define the geographic extent of the disease in Walworth and Kenosha counties. A description and summary of the results this past winter follows:

1.) Issuance of Scientific Collectors Permits (SCP) to Landowners who owned land within a 10 mile radius of the two positive deer in Paddock Lake and the Village of Fontana and within a four and a half mile radius of the Hirschboeck deer farm in north central Walworth County. These SCP were valid from the time of issuance until March 31st, 2004. The earliest permits were issued in November 2003. Ten SCP permits were issued in Kenosha/Racine County and 3 deer were taken on these permits. 157 SCP permits were issued in Walworth County and 62 deer were collected.

2.) Department of Natural Resources shooters collected additional deer samples from areas close to the CWD-positive cases that were not open to hunting. Department shooting operations were initiated during the second week in January and continued until mid – February 2004. Shooting occurred on Monday – Thursdays and typically took place for 2-4 hours during late afternoon and early evening hours. Shooting was done on state lands and on private lands only where DNR obtained the landowner's permission. Site-specific safety plans were used for all shooting sites. DNR shooters did not utilize bait. Shooting teams consisted of two – eight shooters. Kenosha/Racine County shooting surveillance efforts yielded 14 deer samples with 108.5 hours of effort (7.75 hrs/deer). Walworth County shooting surveillance efforts yielded 46 deer samples with 211 hours of effort (4.6 hours/deer).

3.) Live-trapping deer from urban areas where shooting operations were not feasible due to the proximity of nearby homes. These Stephenson traps were large wooden box traps baited with a molasses, corn, and oats mix augmented with apples as a deer attractant. Traps were primarily used in the lakeshore area adjacent to Geneva Lake on private properties. Trapping was initiated in February and was concluded in mid March 2004. Trapping surveillance efforts in Walworth County yielded 8 adult deer samples for 75 trap nights (9.4 trap nights/deer). Trap placement and deer removal crews typically consisted of two Department staff. A local citizen performed trap-checking activities at no cost to the Department. 176 staff hours were expended on this activity (22 staff hours/deer sampled). Trapping was only effective during the snow cover period up until late February. All deer captured within the Stephenson traps were euthanized using American Veterinary Medical Association humane standard procedures.

4.) Adult deer killed in vehicle collisions were collected and sampled. A personal service contract was initiated with the Walworth and Kenosha County Car-Kill-Deer (CKD) contractor. The personal service contract was for payment of \$7.50 for each adult deer head and completed CWD data sheets turned in to the Department. A contract was signed in early February of 2004 and yielded 12 adult deer. The Village of Fontana also collected 8 CKD under their SCP authority. Department staff collected additional 27 CKD in Milwaukee (2), Racine (1), Kenosha (5), Waukesha (8) and Walworth (11) Counties.

The following table summarizes the data from the deer removed through DNR sharp shooting and live-trapping operations:

	Summary of 2003-04 Winter Deer Collection Efforts							
	Bucks		Does		Fawns		Total	
	Shoot	Trap	Shoot	Trap	Shoot	Trap	Shoot	Trap
Walworth	5	1	41	7	7	15	53	23
Kenosha	4	0	9	0	9	0	22	0
Racine	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	9	1	51	7	16	15	76	23

Winter surveillance costs are estimated at about \$31,000 and includes costs associated with staff time, mileage, and supplies. Approximately, 500 hours of DNR staff time was used at an average salary cost of \$20/hour.

Data collection/Carcass disposal - Only the heads from adult deer were collected for samples. Each deer was marked with a unique bar-coded disk on the rear leg and the ear. The disk's bar code corresponded to a data sheet that was used to collect precise information on the location of the deer kill, date of kill, and sex and age of the deer. These unique bar codes were used to inventory and track the deer samples, report the lab results for each individual animal, and report the CWD result – negative or positive to the biologist, landowners and the public.

Deer carcasses were temporarily stored in a refrigerated trailer at Turtle Valley Wildlife Area. As test results were returned, the carcasses were sorted. All negative test carcasses were provided to Valley of the Kings, a sanctuary for large cats to be used for feed. The second positive deer carcass was sent to DNR's Black Earth processing lab for additional tissue extraction and then was disposed of at the UW-Veterinary Diagnostic Lab using approved procedures. The first positive deer carcass collected was disposed of in land-fill, since the Fontana area was not known to have CWD + deer at the time of that collection.

2004 – 05 CWD Management Plans – Based on the cluster of CWD positive deer found in Rock County and the second CWD positive deer taken in Fontana, a Disease Eradication Zone (DEZ) is proposed for southwestern Walworth County. A Herd Reduction Zone (HRZ) is proposed for the remainder of Walworth, southern Waukesha, western Racine and Kenosha Counties. Within these zones, longer hunting seasons are proposed to increase the deer harvest and reduce the deer herd. Public hearings were held in mid March on the proposed CWD rules to regulate hunting in these areas for the 2004 season. The Natural Resources Board (NRB) approved this proposal at their April meeting. Following NRB approval the rules must also be approved by the legislative review committees.

We will continue to place a high priority on collecting samples along the Illinois border to better understand the distribution of the disease. The primary sampling method will be securing deer from hunters during the approved HRZ and DEZ season frameworks. Head depots contracts will be established to provide a convenient method for hunters to have their deer sampled. Citizens who see sick or injured deer can report them to the Department of Natural Resources and we will attempt to collect them for sampling to better define the CWD status of the area.

Want to learn more? - There are several ways to stay up to date on CWD activities and information for southeast Wisconsin. Our CWD web site can be found at www.dnr.wi.gov. This web site contains all the available testing information, maps and documents for Chronic Wasting Disease for our state. We also have a special local CWD phone line (262-740-2070) for southern Walworth County residents. Citizens can call and leave a message if they have questions or want someone from the Department to call them back. Residents from northern Walworth and Waukesha Counties can contact Area Wildlife Supervisor Tami Ryan at (262-574-2120) and residents from Milwaukee, Racine or Kenosha Counties can contact Wildlife Biologist Marty Johnson at 262-884-2391.